

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 96-58, §1(4), added subsecs. (c) and (d).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by sections 1760(1)(A) and 1761 of Pub. L. 101-624 effective Oct. 1, 1990, and amendment by section 1760(1)(B), (2) of Pub. L. 101-624 effective Nov. 28, 1990, see section 1781(b)(1), (2) of Pub. L. 101-624, set out as a note under section 2012 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1985 AMENDMENT

Section 1542(b) of Pub. L. 99-198 provided that: "The amendment made by this section [amending this section] shall become effective on October 1, 1986."

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1982 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 180(b)(2) of Pub. L. 97-253 effective Oct. 1, 1982, see section 193(b) of Pub. L. 97-253, set out as a note under section 2012 of this title.

Amendment by section 183 of Pub. L. 97-253 effective Sept. 8, 1982, see section 193(a) of Pub. L. 97-253, set out as a note under section 2012 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-98 effective on earlier of Sept. 8, 1982, or date such amendment became effective pursuant to section 1338 of Pub. L. 97-98, set out as a note under section 2012 of this title, see section 192(b) of Pub. L. 97-253, set out as a note under section 2012 of this title.

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-98 effective upon such date as Secretary of Agriculture may prescribe, taking into account need for orderly implementation, see section 1338 of Pub. L. 97-98, set out as a note under section 2012 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 1301 of Pub. L. 95-113 provided that this section is effective Oct. 1, 1977.

AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS IF SEQUESTRATION ORDER ISSUED FOR FISCAL YEAR 1989

Amounts available to carry out food stamp program under this section to be reduced if sequestration order is issued under section 902(b) of Title 2, The Congress, see section 702(c)(1) of Pub. L. 100-435, set out as an Effective Date of 1988 Amendment note under section 2012 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 2013, 2025, 2030 of this title.

§ 2028. Puerto Rico block grant

(a) Appropriations; payment

(1)(A) From the sums appropriated under this chapter, the Secretary shall, subject to the provisions of this section, pay to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico \$1,143,000,000 for fiscal year 1996, \$1,174,000,000 for fiscal year 1997, \$1,204,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, \$1,236,000,000 for fiscal year 1999, \$1,268,000,000 for fiscal year 2000, \$1,301,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, and \$1,335,000,000 for fiscal year 2002, to finance 100 percent of the expenditures for food assistance provided to needy persons and 50 percent of the administrative expenses related to the provision of the assistance.

(B) The payments to the Commonwealth for any fiscal year shall not exceed the expenditures by that jurisdiction during that year for the provision of the assistance the provision of which is included in the plan of the Commonwealth approved under subsection (b) of this section and 50 per centum of the related administrative expenses.

(2) The Secretary shall, subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, pay to the Commonwealth for the applicable fiscal year, at such times and in such manner as the Secretary may determine, the amount estimated by the Commonwealth pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(A)(iv) of this section, reduced or increased to the extent of any prior overpayment or current underpayment which the Secretary determines has been made under this section and with respect to which adjustment has not already been made under this subsection.

(b) Plan for provision of assistance; approval; noncompliance

(1)(A) In order to receive payments under this chapter for any fiscal year, the Commonwealth shall have a plan for that fiscal year approved by the Secretary under this section. By July 1 of each year, if the Commonwealth wishes to receive payments, it shall submit a plan for the provision of the assistance described in subsection (a)(1)(A) of this section for the following fiscal year which—

(i) designates the agency or agencies directly responsible for the administration, or supervision of the administration, of the program for the provision of such assistance;

(ii) assesses the food and nutrition needs of needy persons residing in the Commonwealth;

(iii) describes the program for the provision of such assistance, including the assistance to be provided and the persons to whom such assistance will be provided, and any agencies designated to provide such assistance, which program must meet such requirements as the Secretary may by regulation prescribe for the purpose of assuring that assistance is provided to the most needy persons in the jurisdiction;

(iv) estimates the amount of expenditures necessary for the provision of the assistance described in the program and related administrative expenses, up to the amount provided for payment by subsection (a)(1)(A) of this section; and

(v) includes such other information as the Secretary may require.

(B)(i) The Secretary shall approve or disapprove any plan submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A) no later than August 1 of the year in which it is submitted. The Secretary shall approve any plan which complies with the requirements of subparagraph (A). If a plan is disapproved because it does not comply with any of the requirements of that paragraph the Secretary shall, except as provided in subparagraph (B)(ii), notify the appropriate agency in the Commonwealth that payments will not be made to it under subsection (a) of this section for the fiscal year to which the plan applies until the Secretary is satisfied that there is no longer any such failure to comply, and until the Secretary is so satisfied, the Secretary will make no payments.

(ii) The Secretary may suspend the denial of payments under subparagraph (B)(i) for such period as the Secretary determines appropriate and instead withhold payments provided for under subsection (a) of this section, in whole or in part, for the fiscal year to which the plan applies, until the Secretary is satisfied that there

is no longer any failure to comply with the requirements of subparagraph (A), at which time such withheld payments shall be paid.

(2)(A) The Commonwealth shall provide for a biennial audit of expenditures under its program for the provision of the assistance described in subsection (a)(1)(A) of this section, and within 120 days of the end of each fiscal year in which the audit is made, shall report to the Secretary the findings of such audit.

(B) Within 120 days of the end of the fiscal year, the Commonwealth shall provide the Secretary with a statement as to whether the payments received under subsection (a) of this section for that fiscal year exceeded the expenditures by it during that year for which payment is authorized under this section, and if so, by how much, and such other information as the Secretary may require.

(C)(i) If the Secretary finds that there is a substantial failure by the Commonwealth to comply with any of the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B), or to comply with the requirements of subsection (b)(1)(A) of the section in the administration of a plan approved under subsection (b)(1)(B) of this section, the Secretary shall, except as provided in subparagraph (C)(ii), notify the appropriate agency in the Commonwealth that further payments will not be made to it under subsection (a) of this section until the Secretary is satisfied that there will no longer be any such failure to comply, and until the Secretary is so satisfied, the Secretary shall make no further payments.

(ii) The Secretary may suspend the termination of payments under subparagraph (C)(i) for such period as the Secretary determines appropriate, and instead withhold payments provided for under subsection (a) of this section, in whole or in part, until the Secretary is satisfied that there will no longer be any failure to comply with the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) and subsection (b)(1)(A) of this section, at which time such withheld payments shall be paid.

(iii) Upon a finding under subparagraph (C)(i) of a substantial failure to comply with any of the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) and subsection (b)(1)(A) of this section, the Secretary may, in addition to or in lieu of any action taken under subparagraphs (C)(i) and (C)(ii), refer the matter to the Attorney General with a request that injunctive relief be sought to require compliance by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and upon suit by the Attorney General in an appropriate district court of the United States and a showing that noncompliance has occurred, appropriate injunctive relief shall issue.

(c) Review; technical assistance

(1) The Secretary shall provide for the review of the programs for the provision of the assistance described in subsection (a)(1)(A) of this section for which payments are made under this chapter.

(2) The Secretary is authorized as the Secretary deems practicable to provide technical assistance with respect to the programs for the provision of the assistance described in subsection (a)(1)(A) of this section.

(d) Penalty for violations

Whoever knowingly and willfully embezzles, misapplies, steals, or obtains by fraud, false statement, or forgery, any funds, assets, or property provided or financed under this section shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than five years, or both, but if the value of the funds, assets or property involved is not over \$200, the penalty shall be a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both.

(Pub. L. 88-525, § 19, as added Pub. L. 97-35, title I, § 116(a)(2), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 364; amended Pub. L. 97-253, title I, § 184(a), Sept. 8, 1982, 96 Stat. 785; Pub. L. 98-204, § 1, Dec. 2, 1983, 97 Stat. 1385; Pub. L. 99-114, § 2, Oct. 1, 1985, 99 Stat. 488; Pub. L. 99-157, § 3, Nov. 15, 1985, 99 Stat. 818; Pub. L. 99-182, § 3, Dec. 13, 1985, 99 Stat. 1173; Pub. L. 99-198, title XV, § 1543, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1589; Pub. L. 101-624, title XVII, § 1762(b), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3804; Pub. L. 102-237, title IX, § 941(9), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1893; Pub. L. 103-66, title XIII, § 13917, Aug. 10, 1993, 107 Stat. 674; Pub. L. 104-127, title IV, § 401(f), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1026.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 104-127 substituted “\$1,143,000,000 for fiscal year 1996, \$1,174,000,000 for fiscal year 1997, \$1,204,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, \$1,236,000,000 for fiscal year 1999, \$1,268,000,000 for fiscal year 2000, \$1,301,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, and \$1,335,000,000 for fiscal year 2002” for “\$974,000,000 for fiscal year 1991, \$1,013,000,000 for fiscal year 1992, \$1,051,000,000 for fiscal year 1993, \$1,097,000,000 for fiscal year 1994, and \$1,143,000,000 for fiscal year 1995”.

1993—Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 103-66 substituted “\$1,097,000,000” for “\$1,091,000,000” and “\$1,143,000,000” for “\$1,133,000,000”.

1991—Subsec. (b)(1)(A)(i). Pub. L. 102-237 struck out a period after “directly”.

1990—Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 101-624 amended subpar. (A) generally. Prior to amendment, subpar. (A) read as follows: “From the sums appropriated under this chapter the Secretary shall, subject to the provisions of this subsection and subsection (b) of this section, pay to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico not to exceed \$825,000,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1986, \$852,750,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1987, \$879,750,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1988, \$908,250,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1989, and \$936,750,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1990, to finance 100 per centum of the expenditures for food assistance provided to needy persons, and 50 per centum of the administrative expenses related to the provision of such assistance.”

1985—Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 99-198, § 1543(1), (2), substituted “for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1986, \$852,750,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1987, \$879,750,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1988, \$908,250,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1989, and \$936,750,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1990,” for “for each fiscal year” and struck out “noncash” after “100 per centum of the expenditures for”.

Pub. L. 99-114, Pub. L. 99-157, and Pub. L. 99-182, made identical amendments which temporarily struck out “noncash” after “100 per centum of the expenditures for”, for specified periods of time. See Effective and Termination Dates of 1985 Amendments note below.

Subsec. (b)(1)(A)(i). Pub. L. 99-198, § 1543(3), substituted “the agency or agencies directly.” for “a single agency which shall be”.

1983—Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 98-204 temporarily struck out “noncash” after “100 per centum of the expenditures for”. See Effective and Termination Dates of 1983 Amendment note below.

1982—Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 97-253 substituted “the expenditures for noncash food assistance” for “the expenditures for food assistance”.

EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATION DATES OF 1985 AMENDMENTS

Section 3 of Pub. L. 99-182 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective for the period beginning Dec. 14, 1985, and ending Dec. 31, 1985.

Section 3 of Pub. L. 99-157 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective for the period beginning Nov. 16, 1985, and ending Dec. 13, 1985.

Section 2 of Pub. L. 99-114 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective for the period beginning Oct. 1, 1985, and ending Nov. 15, 1985.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1993 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-66 effective, and to be implemented beginning on, Oct. 1, 1993, see section 13971(a) of Pub. L. 103-66, set out as a note under section 2025 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1991 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 102-237 effective and to be implemented no later than Feb. 1, 1992, see section 1101(d)(1) of Pub. L. 102-237, set out as a note under section 1421 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-624 effective Oct. 1, 1990, see section 1781(b)(1) of Pub. L. 101-624, set out as a note under section 2012 of this title.

EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATION DATES OF 1983 AMENDMENT

Section 1 of Pub. L. 98-204 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective for the period beginning Jan. 1, 1984, and ending Sept. 30, 1985.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1982 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-253 effective Sept. 8, 1982, see section 193(a) of Pub. L. 97-253, set out as a note under section 2012 of this title.

Section 184(b) of Pub. L. 97-253, as amended by Pub. L. 98-107, §101(b), Oct. 1, 1983, 97 Stat. 734, provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall not apply with respect to any plan submitted under section 19(b) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2028(b)) [subsec. (b) of this section] by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in order to receive payments for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1982, or the fiscal year ending September 30, 1983, or for the first three months of the fiscal year ending September 30, 1984.”

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 116(a) of Pub. L. 97-35 provided that this section is effective July 1, 1982.

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN PUERTO RICO

Section 1762(a) of Pub. L. 101-624 provided that: “It is the policy of Congress that citizens of the United States who reside in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico should be safeguarded against hunger and treated on an equitable and fair basis with other citizens under Federal nutritional programs.”

NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF PUERTO RICANS; STUDY AND REPORT TO CONGRESS

Section 1762(c), (d) of Pub. L. 101-624 provided that: “(c) STUDY OF NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF PUERTO RICANS.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of—

“(1) the nutritional needs of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, including—

“(A) the adequacy of the nutritional level of the diets of members of households receiving assistance under the nutrition assistance program and other households not currently receiving the assistance;

“(B) the incidence of inadequate nutrition among children and the elderly residing in the Commonwealth;

“(C) the nutritional impact of restoring the level of nutritional assistance provided to households in the Commonwealth to the level of the assistance provided to other households in the United States; and

“(D) such other factors as the Comptroller General considers appropriate; and

“(2) the potential alternative means of providing nutritional assistance in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, including—

“(A) the impact of restoring the Commonwealth to the food stamp program;

“(B) increasing the benefits provided under the nutrition assistance program to the aggregate value of food stamp coupons that would be distributed to households in the Commonwealth if the Commonwealth were to participate in the food stamp program; and

“(C) the usefulness of adjustments to standards of eligibility and other factors appropriate to the circumstances of the Commonwealth comparable to those adjustments made under the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) for Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and the Virgin Islands of the United States.

“(d) REPORT OF FINDINGS.—Not later than August 1, 1992, the Comptroller General shall submit a final report on the findings of the study required under subsection (c) to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.”

STUDY OF FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN PUERTO RICO; REPORT TO CONGRESS BY MARCH 1, 1985

Section 2 of Pub. L. 98-204 provided that: “The Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct a study of the food assistance program in Puerto Rico carried out under section 19 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2028) which shall include (1) an assessment of its impact on the adequacy of the nutritional level of the diets of households receiving food assistance in the form of cash rather than in a noncash form, (2) an assessment of the expenditure levels for food of such households, and (3) any other factors the Secretary considers appropriate. The Secretary shall submit a final report of the findings of the study to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate no later than March 1, 1985.”

AMOUNT PAYABLE TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO FOR FISCAL YEAR 1982; PLANS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY FOR GRANTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 1982 AND 1983

Section 116(b) of Pub. L. 97-35 provided that: “Notwithstanding the provisions of section 19 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 [this section], as added by this section—

“(1) the amount payable to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico under section 19 for fiscal year 1982 shall be \$206,500,000, and the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to grant such waivers of the requirements imposed by that section with respect to that fiscal year as the Secretary determines appropriate to carry out the purposes of that section; and

“(2) in order to receive the amounts payable under this subsection or section 19 for fiscal years 1982 and 1983, the Commonwealth shall submit, for the Secretary's approval, the plan required by the provisions of subsection (b) of section 19 by April 1, 1982.”

§ 2029. Workfare

(a) Program plan; guidelines; compliance

(1) The Secretary shall permit any political subdivision, in any State, that applies and submits a plan to the Secretary in compliance with